THE MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FORTY-THIRD DAY

Saturday, 22nd April 1961.

The House met in the Assembly Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore at Thirty-Minutes Past Eight of the Clock.

MR. SPEAKER (Sri S. R. KANTHI, B.A., LL.B.) in the Chair.

MEMBER'S REPRESENTATION

Sri J. B. MALLARADHYA (Nanjangud).—Sir, I want to move for an extension of time for the Compulsory Education Bill.....

RULING *Re.* BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. SPEAKER.—Before that, I should rise to give a ruling.

The Hon'ble Members Sri C. J. Muckannappa and Sri M. C. Narasimhan have given notice of a matter of alleged privilege. The letter runs as follows :

> "This is to request you to permit us to raise an issue of breach of privilege.
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> The breach of privilege has according to signatories occured in the following manner :
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> The Chair yesterday (*i.e.* on 13–4–61) passed certain remarks which cast serious reflection on all the Members of the House in a very general way. The remarks in the first instance reffered to somebody's opinion suggesting serious deterioration in the debate. It was also suggested that there was no possibility of the members correcting themselves in the future either. In the course of the observations while referring to alleged interruptions by members the word 'monkey' was used which was uncalled for. Whatever the intentions may be the effect of these words as judged from the currency it has gained through the Press reporting and also otherwise has seriously affected the prestige of the members and has impaired their capacity to discharge their duties as required by the Constitution. Neither the rules of the procedure of the House nor the Constitution enables the Chair to make such observations.
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> Hence the motion of breach of privilege may be permitted to be moved and referred to the Committee of Privileges."

(Mr. Speaker)

In view of the fact that there are any number of rulings of this House as well as of other Legislative bodies that there can be no question of breach of privilege against the Speaker, I wanted to disallow this notice in the Chambers and communicate the same to the Hon'ble Members. This in fact is the practice that has been followed in the past. However it is not usual that allegations of breach of privilege should be made against the Speaker who is the custodian of the privileges of the House collectively and of the Members individually, and where such allegations are made, I thought it was desirable that I should set out at some length the circumstances which necessitated my making the observations which are now in question.

Every Hon'ble Member who was present in this House on that day will remember that for the past few days quite a considerable time is taken up every day after question-hour in discussing or debating matters of day-to-day procedure, which by now have become well established in this House. It was this deterioration in the standards of our conduct which compelled me to make these observations on the 13th instant. It has become a very unfortunate feature in this House that several Members get up and speak at the same time and pay very little heed to the request of the Chair to observe some order in the debate. It is also unfortunate that well-understood practices are not followed, but settled procedure is sought to be made the subject of discussion from time to time. For instance, from the commencement of the Voting of Demands for Grants, I made it clear that I was prepared to take up any Demands which the Opposition wanted and give such time as they wanted so long as all the Demands were disposed of within the time allotted. When certain Demands were taken up in the beginning and Hon'ble Members wanted more time to debate them, I pointed out that any such request would ultimately result in curtailment of time for the more important Demands which were to come up before the House later. In spite of it, Hon'ble Members insisted on taking a lot of time in the beginning and yet wanted more time to be given for the Demands which came up later. This naturally led to considerable discussion at the beginning of each day's proceedings which I honestly felt and even now feel, is not in keeping with the dignity of the House and does not reflect the parliamentary experience which all of us posesess. On 13th instant this same matter was again raised. There was considerable discussion and any number of Hon'ble Members started trying to get up at the same time and speak. They really sought to speak not on any item of business, but generally about the arrangement of business and wanted time for the Demands. This was precisely what I anticipated and I warned Hon'ble Members earlier that they should allocate time on a more rational basis.

I see from the Proceedings that the very Hon'ble Member who has tabled this privilege motion namely Sri Muckannappa attributed

motives to the Speaker and stated that he was afraid of the Chief Minister. Later on he said that several Members had insulted the Speaker and the Chair had pocketed insults.

Hon'ble Members know that only one Member can hold the floor at a time. If five or six members rise and start speaking at the same time, orderly conduct of the business of the House becomes impossible. It is in this context that I stated that the interruptions are so many that they are jumping like the monkey. I thought that I had made myself sufficiently clear on that occasion to say that it was interruptions that were coming up in the House like the jumping of monkey and that it had absolutely no relation whatever to any Hon'ble Member. It is because I wanted to explain the context in which this expression was used and the extact meaning which this expression conveyed that I reserved my ruling on this privilege issue.

I must make it clear that it can never be the intention of the Speaker who is the custodian of the privileges of the House to himself commit a breach of privilege. I have always been conscious of the responsibilities which the Hon'ble Members in the House and more so, the Presiding Officer carry in the discharge of their duties. I have been extremely pained at the way our proceedings are going on during the last few days. As I said on the 13th instant it is a matter of great distress to me that after four years of experience in the working of this Assembly, we should have resorted to so many interruptions in regard to matters of procedure which are very well settled. It was this distress which forced me to make these observations. Nothing will give me greater happiness than to find that there is never any need for a presiding officer to make observations of this character or to draw the attention of the Members to settled procedure and practice, because Members of experience in this House are well aware of the same.

So far as the notices are concerned, they are not in order and are disallowed.

There is another notice of privilege relating to the Report in the Samyukta Karnataka of the 14th April. The portion referred to relates to the very matter which was the subject of the notice in relation to my self.

In view of what I have said earlier and because what has appeared in the paper is a fair report of the proceedings; I regreat I cannot give my consent to move in the matter and I therefore disallow the notice also.

Leave of absence to a Member.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have received a letter from Sri T.Parthasarathi, a Hon'ble Member of this House requesting leave of absence from all the meeting of the current session from 4th March as he is on tour abroad.